

CLAIMS:

- Sub A1
1. A method of locating a lost pet, the method comprising the steps of:
    - (a) prompting a pet owner to provide pet information relating to their pet, including an identifier, and contact information for the pet owner;
    - 5 (b) storing the pet information and the contact information in a computer-readable memory accessible by a host computer;
    - (c) providing an information reference device to accompany the pet, the information reference device communicating lost pet information about the pet, including the identifier, for reuniting the pet with the owner;
    - 10 (d) allowing a person who finds the pet to access the host computer via a communications network and to enter the lost pet information provided by the information reference device;
    - (e) comparing in the host computer the lost pet information entered by the person who found the pet to the pet information provided by the pet owner in an attempt to find a match; and
    - 15 (f) if a match is found, providing the person who found the lost pet with the contact information for the pet owner.
  2. The method as set forth in claim 1, the pet being vaccinated for rabies, the identifier being based upon the rabies vaccination, and the information reference device being a rabies tag worn by the pet.
  - 20 3. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including in step (a) the option of allowing the owner to license the pet with a municipality.
  - 25 4. The method as set forth in claim 1, the information reference device being a municipal license tag.
  5. The method as set forth in claim 1, the information reference device
  - 30 being a microchip implanted in the pet.
  6. The method as set forth in claim 4, the information reference device being a tattoo appearing on the pet's skin.

00644764-082300

being a collar.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1, the communications network  
5 including the Internet.

9. The method as set forth in claim 1, the pet information being information selected from the group consisting of a veterinarian's name for the pet, the veterinarian's phone number, a licensing agency, a number from a rabies tag for the pet, a year that the pet was vaccinated, an indication of a pet type for the pet, an indication of a breed of the pet, a color of the pet, a date the pet was found, and a location where the pet was found.

10. The method as set forth in claim 1, the contact information being  
15 information selected from the group consisting of the pet owner's name, the pet owner's  
address, the pet owner's telephone number, a veterinarian for the pet, the veterinarian's  
address, and the veterinarian's phone number.

096447E4 08E300

5

15

20

25

30

16. A system to aid in locating lost pets, the system comprising:  
a host computer accessible via a communications network and programmed to:  
receive from a pet owner pet information, including an identifier, relating  
to a pet and contact information for the pet owner;  
5 store the pet information and the contact information in computer-  
readable memory accessible by a host computer;  
permit a person who finds a pet to access the host computer via a  
communications network and to enter lost pet information relating  
to the lost pet;  
10 compare the lost pet information entered by the person who found the pet  
to the pet information provided by the pet owner in an attempt to  
find a match;  
provide the person who found the lost pet with the contact information for  
the owner of the lost pet if a match is found; and  
15 an information reference device to accompany the pet and communicate the  
identifier.

17. The system as set forth in claim 15, the host computer being further  
programmed to allow the owner to license the pet with a municipality.

18. The system as set forth in claim 15, the pet being vaccinated for  
rabies, the identifier being related to the rabies vaccination, and the information  
reference device being a rabies tag.

19. The system as set forth in claim 15, the information reference device  
being a license tag.

20. The system as set forth in claim 15, the information reference device  
being a microchip.

21. The system as set forth in claim 15, the information reference device  
being a tattoo.

00644764.082300

22. The system is a collar.

5

10

15

et forth in claim  
t address wh  
empt to reun